

NANCY BLANTON'S IRELAND

The Snow Path to Dingle

28 May - 6 June, 2020

A unique tour showcasing beloved locales in Nancy's novels, with the author onboard to narrate!

**Itinerary designed by Peg Aikman in conjunction with
Adams & Butler - Hallmark of Luxury Travel
Specialists in Ireland**



Contact: peg@travelxperts.com, 302.337.3200

The castle of his father's dreams was never built, and Faolán Burke will try almost anything to make it a reality.

Ride along on his urgent and turbulent journey through County Cork, where he abducts a smart and willful heiress, races along the windswept coast, delivers her to Skibbereen where he bares his heart, and to Mallow where she takes his hand in marriage.

Follow the fearsome Lord Deputy Thomas Wentworth on his hunt through the lush glens of Wicklow in search of prize stag and rebel clansmen. Join his summer progress from Kilkenny across the south of Ireland and discover his true intent for the Irish clans. Feel the sea mists that shroud the distant crests and whisper the secrets and intrigues that unfold.

Then, approach Killarney with the questions that haunted Elvy Burke as she escaped the murdering Oliver Cromwell. Go west to safety? Or north to adventure, where the way is cold and hard?

Join me in this special tour of Ireland and experience the passions, sorrows and triumphs of the characters featured in my Skibbereen book series.

Your snow path to Dingle awaits...

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**Special Itinerary for the Blanton Book Tour in
Ireland & Pre/Post Tour Extensions**



Blanton Book Tour

Day 1

Wicklow

- *Welcome to Ireland! Arrive into Dublin airport and enjoy a transfer to your hotel in Wicklow. Convene as a group and take today to explore Wicklow or relax and acclimate.*
- **Driver & Step On Guide - Vehicle 13/16 pax**



Wicklow

- **Overnight in Classic Room at Powerscourt Hotel**

Day 2 Wicklow

- *Today, explore Wicklow, Glendalough, and Powerscourt Gardens today.*
- **Driver & Step On Guide - Vehicle 13/16 pax**

Watching early morning mists rise up the steep, wooded slopes of Glendalough – the “valley of two lakes” – to reveal the remarkable remains of this early Christian site deep in the Wicklow Mountains, it’s easy to feel at one with nature too. One day as St. Kevin was at prayer, so legend says, a blackbird laid an egg in his outstretched hand. The 6th-century founder of the monastic settlement at Glendalough, not wishing to disturb nature’s course, remained motionless until the egg hatched. Kevin was born into a noble family but renounced a life of privilege for one of prayer amid birds and animals in Glendalough’s remote, glaciated valley. Continuing to Powerscourt in Enniskerry, which has gardens that are a magnificent combination of the aristocratic themes of French and Italian formal gardening. Powerscourt Gardens stretch over 47 acres and offer visitors a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, statues and ornamental lakes, secret hollows and rambling walks. Powerscourt Gardens were designed from 1731 onwards, with the desire to create a garden which was part of the wider surrounding landscape. Powerscourt Gardens include The Walled Gardens, The Italian Garden, The Dolphin Pond, The Japanese Gardens, Pets Cemetery and Peppertower, among other features and attractions. With a pair of canals, beech alleys and even an open-air theatre, it is a magical place to visit. The house itself is furnished with an impressive collection built up by the Brabazon family over the last four centuries.

- **Overnight in Classic Room at Powerscourt Hotel**

Day 3 Wicklow, Cork

- *Depart Wicklow and make your way to Cork via the medieval city of Kilkenny. Enjoy a private tour of the house and gardens of Lismore Castle along the way. Meet a local historian for a walking tour of Kilkenny.*
- **Driver & Step On Guide - Vehicle 13/16 pax**
- **Historian Walking Tour of Kilkenny**
- **Private Tour of Lismore Castle & Gardens**

Kilkenny, in the 'Sunny Southeast' is the Ireland of many visitors' imaginations. Built from dark-grey limestone flecked with fossil seashells, Kilkenny is also known as 'the marble city'. Its picturesque 'Medieval Mile' of narrow lanes and historic buildings strung between castle and cathedral along the bank of the River Nore is one of the southeast's biggest tourist draws. It has many fine historic buildings, such as Kilkenny Castle - a restored 13-century castle overlooking the River Nore. Kilkenny is also home to a vibrant artistic community and its streets are filled with galleries, craft shops and design studios featuring some of Ireland's best-known designers. The Kilkenny Design Craft Centre offers an unrivalled selection of Irish handcrafted gifts. The centre is situated in what was once the stables of Kilkenny Castle and is fittingly located adjacent to the National Craft Gallery, one of Ireland's most exciting artistic venues. The Smithwicks Experience Tour is only five minutes' walk from the castle. During the tour, you will discover how five generations of Smithwicks turned a humble Kilkenny ale into a brew famous throughout the world. Kilkenny is an enchanting medieval city with narrow streets, old-fashioned shopfronts and old-style pubs, many with traditional live music. Nowhere hits that sweet spot between ancient history and 21st Century cosmopolitanism quite like it. Kilkenny has an urban buzz, paired with a scattering of picture-perfect towns strung about the River Nore, which make for a truly memorable visit.



Kilkenny

- **Overnight in Superior Room at Hayfield Manor**

Day 4 Cork

- *Today, venture to Mallow and Waterford. Meet with the Jameson sisters, the ninth-generation members of the Jameson whiskey family, for afternoon tea. Return to Cork in the evening.*
- **Driver & Step On Guide - Vehicle 13/16 pax**
- **Afternoon Tea with the Jameson Sisters**

Waterford (Port Láirge) is Ireland's oldest city – it celebrated its 1100th anniversary in 2014 – with a history that dates back to Viking times. Taking its name from the Old Norse vedrarfjord ('winter haven' or 'windy harbour' are just two of several possible translations), it remains a busy port city on a tidal reach of the River Suir, and is famous as the home of Waterford crystal. Although the city has been extensively redeveloped, notably along the waterfront, it retains vestiges of its Viking and Norman past in the narrow streets and town walls of the so-called Viking Triangle, where three excellent museums tell the story of Ireland's Middle Ages better than in any other city in the country.



Waterford

- **Overnight in Superior Room at Hayfield Manor**

Day 5 Cork, Kerry, Killarney, South West

- *Explore Cork in the morning with your guide. Drive along the wild Atlantic Way to Skibbereen. Then, tour to Killarney.*
- **Driver & Step On Guide - Vehicle 13/16 pax**

Cork City is Ireland's third city and has always been an important seaport. It began on an island in the swampy estuary of the River Lee and gradually climbed up the steep banks on either side. Today the river flows through Cork city in two main channels so that you find yourself constantly crossing bridges and hence Cork City's coat of arms bears the motto 'A Safe Harbour for Ships'. Some of the main streets are built over channels where ships nuzzled their anchor-chains a century ago. Along the South Mall, you will see large gateways at street level, under steps leading to a higher main door. These were once boathouses when merchants arrived at their warehouses by water. St. Finbarr is the founder and patron saint. He founded a monastery in the seventh century where St. Finn Barre's Cathedral now stands, and it grew into an extensive and wealthy establishment. It attracted the attention of the Viking sea-pirates who raided and burned the infant city, but returned in later years to settle and trade. The Anglo-Norman invasion in 1172 resulted in both the Danish lords and local McCarthy chiefs having to submit to Henry II, but Cork has always had a reputation for independence and stubborn resistance: it came to be known as "Rebel Cork". Steeped in history, Cork City is fast gaining a reputation as one of Europe's hippest cities. Exploring Cork is an enjoyable, multi-day pursuit filled with shopping, sightseeing, eating and everything in between.



Cork

- **Overnight in Deluxe Room at Great Southern Killarney**

Day 6 Kerry, Killarney, South West

- *Visit Dingle today.*
- **Driver & Step On Guide - Vehicle 13/16 pax**

The Dingle Peninsula or Corca Dhuibhne stretches 30 miles (48 kilometres) into the Atlantic Ocean from Ireland's south-west coast. One of the highlights of the Wild Atlantic Way, the Dingle Peninsula culminates in the Irish mainland's westernmost point. The peninsula is dominated by the range of mountains that form its spine, running from the Slieve Mish range to Mount Brandon, Ireland's second highest peak. The coastline consists of steep sea-cliffs, broken by sandy beaches, with two large sand spits at Inch in the south and the Maharees to the north. In the shadow of sacred Mt Brandon, a maze of fuchsia-fringed boreens (country lanes) weaves together an ancient landscape of prehistoric ring forts and beehive huts, early Christian chapels, crosses and holy wells, picturesque hamlets and abandoned villages. But it's where the land meets the ocean – whether in a welter of wave-pounded rocks, or where the surf laps secluded, sandy coves – that Dingle's beauty truly reveals itself. Centred on charming Dingle town, the peninsula has long been a beacon for those of an alternative bent, attracting artists, craftspeople, musicians and idiosyncratic characters who can be found in workshops, museums, festivals and unforgettable trad sessions throughout Dingle's tiny settlements. The peninsula has something to offer to everyone including: sandy beaches safe for swimming, walking routes for all abilities, a thriving Irish language community, a rich musical tradition, fine dining, sea angling, arts and film festivals, talented crafts-persons and some of the best surfing in Ireland.



Dingle

- **Overnight in Deluxe Room at Great Southern Killarney**

Day 7 Kerry, Killarney, South West, Adare

- *Today, explore the city of Killarney and Killarney national park. Enjoy the natural beauty of the region as you take a jaunt in a horse and carriage to experience the park in traditional style. Make your way to Adare Manor for the evening.*
- **Driver & Step On Guide - Vehicle 13/16 pax**
- **Killarney Jaunting Car Tour**

Southwest of the town of Killarney in Co. Kerry is an expanse of rugged, mountainous country. This includes the McGillicuddy's Reeks, the highest mountain range in Ireland. At the foot of these mountains nestle the world-famous lakes of Killarney. Here, where the mountains sweep down to the lake shores, lies the 10,236-hectare, Killarney National Park. The distinctive combination of mountains, lakes, woods and waterfalls under ever changing skies gives the area a special scenic beauty. The centre of the National Park is the 4,300-hectare Bourn Vincent Memorial Park which was presented to the Irish State in 1932. The focal point of the National Park for visitors is Muckross House and Gardens. The house which is presented as a late 19th century mansion featuring all the necessary furnishings and artefacts of the period is a major visitor attraction is jointly managed by the Park Authorities and the Trustees of Muckross House. The former Kenmare Desmone close to Killarney Town is also part of the National Park and features Killarney House and Gardens and Knockreer House, the education centre of the park. Killarney National Park contains many features of national and international importance such as the native oakwoods and yew woods together with an abundance of evergreen trees and shrubs and a profusion of bryophytes and lichens which thrive in the mild Killarney climate. Killarney National Park was designated as a Biosphere Reserve in 1981 by UNESCO, part of a world network of natural areas which focus on conservation, research, education and training.



Killarney National Park

- **Overnight in Deluxe Room at Adare Manor**

Day 8 Adare

- *Today, enjoy the iconic Cliffs of Moher and the Burren.*
- **Driver & Step On Guide - Vehicle 13/16 pax**

Words simply cannot do justice to The Burren, an eerie area of ancient seabed that suffered glacial



The Burren

activity during its long history. The word 'Burren' comes from the Irish word 'Boíreann' meaning a rocky place. However, don't let its bare Lunar-like landscape fool you. In the narrow crevices that criss-cross this limestone plateau flourish orchids, gentians and other rare flora. In other words, it's a stunning wild garden. The Burren is home to 1,100 species of plants and is the only place in Europe where Mediterranean and Arctic Alpine plants grow together in harmony. Twenty-two varieties of orchids thrive here, nourished by underground rivers and rich soil. In terms of fauna, feral goats, foxes and hares are the most common mammals encountered when walking in the Burren. South of the Burren is another of Ireland's natural wonders. The Cliffs of Moher is a sheer precipice 8km, rising to a

height of 214m and is one of the most impressive stretches of coast in the West of Ireland. It's especially impressive during the nesting season for the quantity and variety of seabirds who gather there. O'Briens Tower stands near the highest point and has served as a viewing point for visitors for hundreds of years. Walking along the cliffs will provide you with some great photos and on a clear day, you can see the Aran Islands and Galway Bay.

- **Overnight in Deluxe Room at Adare Manor**

Day 9 Adare

- *Departure.*
- *Enjoy a private transfer to Shannon Airport for your flight home.*

To inquire about booking contact:

Peg Aikman affiliated with Travel Experts, Inc.

e: peg@travelxperts.com ph: 302.337.3200

PRICING

Pricing based on 10 guests: 4467 Euro per person based on double occupancy*

11 guests: 4269 Euro per person based on double occupancy*

12 guests: 4105 Euro per person based on double occupancy*

Single supplement 1835 E*

*subject to change based on availability at the time of booking

Blanton Book Tour – Pre Tour Extension

Day 1 Dublin

- *Welcome to Dublin! Enjoy a private transfer to your hotel. In the afternoon, enjoy a private walking tour of Dublin city.*
- **Private Airport Transfer**
- **Private Walking Tour of Dublin (up to 3 hrs)**

Experience the charming individuality of Dublin on its streets, behind its facades, in its hidden corners and in its fascinating stories and history. A well-established and award-winning walking tour company with a host of well-trained and highly-acclaimed tour guides will share their passion for Dublin with you. All tours have been designed by Pat Liddy, a renowned writer, illustrator and local historian. This exceptional tour will take in hidden gems and surprises that visitors often miss. Starting from Dublin's main street, O'Connell Street, travelling North to South, this 3-hour stroll will take in many Dublin icons and guide you to some wonderful hidden spots that are too often overlooked. Ready and willing to walk you around the city centre of Ireland's wonderful capital under any weather conditions. You will be shown the hidden and most fascinating sights, hear about traditions, and Dublin's prominent historical figures as well as its common people and their stories.



- **Overnight in Deluxe Queen at Dylan Hotel**

Day 2 Dublin

- *Explore Dublin on your own today. In the evening, enjoy a public literary pub crawl of Ireland's capital city.*
- **Literary Pub Crawl of Dublin (Public Tour)**

There are plenty of things to see and do in Ireland's capital city. Possessing medieval roots, most of the greatest attractions of Dublin city are situated within easy distance of each other. However, in the 18th century, it became the second city of the British Empire and grew at an amazing rate. Dublin has long been a centre of art and culture. The city is over a thousand years old, and many of the towns and settlements that surround it are equally ancient. Successive centuries have left their distinctive overlays of character and architecture which means that Dublin has a wealth of historically significant and fascinating sights to explore such as Dublin Castle, where the Normans ruled from the 12th Century, St Patrick's Cathedral, of which Jonathan Swift was Dean, and Trinity College, famous for The Book of Kells and for its alumni who include Oscar Wilde and Oliver Goldsmith, or learn about the Irish diaspora at the EPIC museum.



- **Overnight in Deluxe Queen at Dylan Hotel**

Day 3 Dublin

- *Transfer to Powerscourt to commence Blanton Book Tour. Scheduled time and depart as a group.*

PRICING:

Pre trip costs based on a total for two persons sharing: 1761 Euro*

*subject to change based on availability at the time of booking

Blanton Book Tour – Post Tour Extention

Day 1

Adare, Galway

- *Depart Adare and venture to Galway via a private transfer. Explore Ireland's musical capital on a private walking tour.*
- **Private Transfer from Adare to Galway**
- **Private Walking Tour of Galway (up to 3 hrs)**

Galway City is a thriving, bohemian, cultural city on the Western coast of Ireland. What makes it a wonderful place to stay is the atmosphere, the culture, the people, and the events. Although Galway is the fourth largest city in Ireland, it has retained much of its small-town character and is home to many artists, writers, and artisans. Galway is the unofficial cultural capital of Ireland and its lively arts scene peaks during the summertime Galway Arts Festival. Along with being a popular seaside destination with beautiful beaches and long winding promenade, it also has a buzzing cosmopolitan city centre. The city is a joy to explore with its labyrinthine cobbled streets, colourful shop facades and busy café/bar culture. Outside of Galway City the wild and sparsely populated Connemara region offers spectacular scenery of valleys, mountains and lakes and unparalleled hill walking across the peaks of the Twelve Bens. The coast line is wrought into rocky inlets sheltering white sand beaches, and is studded with the beautiful Aran islands that make for interesting day trips. Galway is known as the 'City of the Tribes' and is a busy, colourful city famous for its vibrant arts scene and festivals. The streets of Galway are alive with street performers and musicians throughout the year but especially during the summer months.



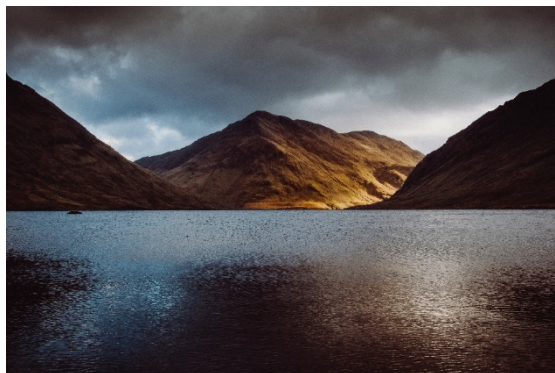
- **Overnight in Executive Room at Hotel Meyrick**

Day 2

Galway, Connemara

- *Today, meet your driver guide in the lobby of your hotel. Explore Connemara with your driver guide. Return to Galway in the evening.*
- **Driver Guide (up to 8 hrs)**

Connemara is the area of Western Galway & South Mayo bounded by the Atlantic & Lough Corrib. It is an area beloved by artists & poets who find magical inspiration in its wide-open bogs and towering cloud-capped mountains. Cottages nestle into hillsides where wild looking sheep with thick fleeces & great curling horns freely graze. The rugged coastline is punctuated with little fishing villages. Learn about the Irish Bodhran, the Irish drum in Roundstone and visit the Duc de Stacpoole at the Roundstone Art Gallery. Killary Harbour, a glacial fjord, can be explored on a local cruise. Kylemore Abbey, a Benedictine school, is amazingly beautiful and has a recently restored Victorian garden. Clifden, the capital of Connemara is known for its tweeds. Be sure to follow the Sky Road into Clifden, and if you have time visit some of the coral beaches out towards Roundstone. Letterfrack is home to Connemara National Park. Letterfrack Woodwork & Furniture College is in the village where students design innovative and quality handcrafted furniture. A private cruise on a very stable 36-foot motor catamaran to some of the deserted islands could be arranged. Heading west from Galway city, the villages of Connemara will stretch out before you like a colourful road map of communities and hidden gems just waiting to be explored. Each town or village has its own distinct character and local culture. The diversity of the landscape and the people who populate it offers much to you, the visitor.



- **Overnight in Executive Room at Hotel Meyrick**

Day 3

- *Departure.*
- *Enjoy a private transfer from Galway to Shannon for your flight home.*
- **Private Transfer Galway to Shannon**

To inquire about booking contact:

Peg Aikman affiliated with Travel Experts, Inc.

e: peg@travelxperts.com ph: 302.337.3200

PRICING

Post trip costs based on a total for two persons sharing 3102 Euro*

*subject to change based on availability at the time of booking

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Booking procedure

Please read the conditions of travel as your booking is subject to the terms listed below.

A contract is entered once your travel designer received your deposit and we accept and confirm the booking.

Payment of any monies constitutes acceptance and understanding of Adams & Butler's Terms & Conditions as laid out below, as listed on our website and our pre-travel documentation.

Deposit & Final Payment

Tour & customized itinerary bookings are provisional until a 30% deposit is received, and confirmations issued, and until that time accommodation and services cannot be guaranteed. The balance is due 3 months prior to arrival.

If the final balance is not received on time, Adams & Butler reserves the right to treat the booking as cancelled by you and deposit payment become forfeit.

If you book your travel, 90 days or prior to departure, the full amount of your trip must be paid in order to confirm the booking.

Special requirements

Any special requirements, allergies and dietary restrictions must be disclosed to the Travel Designer at the time of booking. Any special requests or requirements do not form part of these Terms or of the contract between you and Adams & Butler. Your Travel Designer is not liable for any failure for other parties to accommodate or fulfill such requests.

Travel Insurance

Please ensure that all travelers are in possession of valid travel insurance. Passengers must bear all such losses or expenses for weather, acts of God, strikes, government actions, war, terrorism or other circumstances beyond our control. To guard against unforeseen circumstances, we recommend you purchase travel insurance.

Cancellation Policy

(a) All cancellations must be notified in writing by email or fax to Adams & Butler

(b) The following Cancellation Charges apply to all bookings -

Up to 3 months prior to date of arrival – €500/£500 administration charge

1 to 3 months prior to date of arrival – 20% plus €500/£500 administration charge.

Less than 30 days prior to date of arrival – 100%.